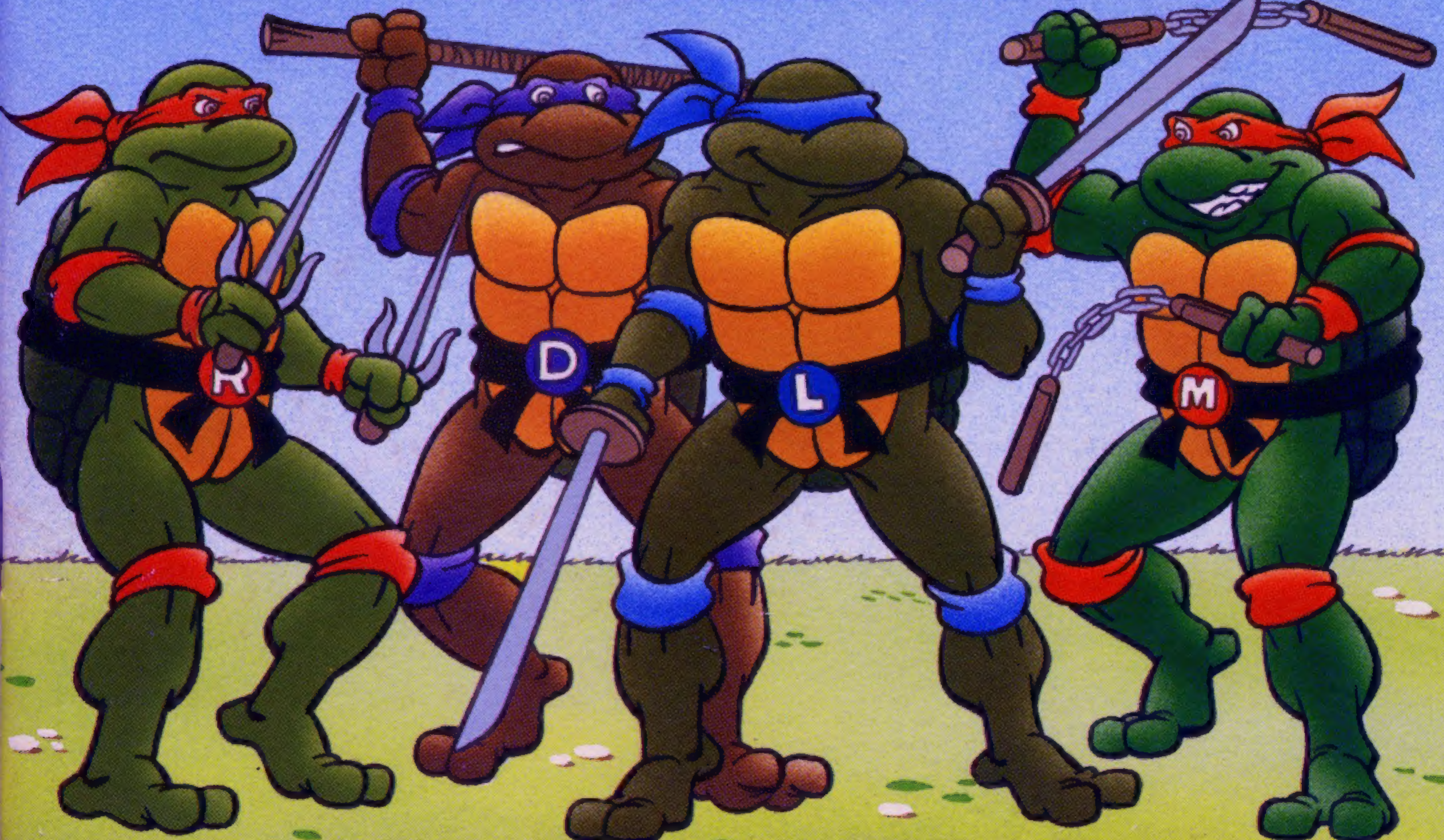
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES®

THE FINAL LESSON



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TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES®

THE FINAL LESSON

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Based on the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles characters
and comic book created by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird

Random House New York

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Returning to their sewer home one evening, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles– Michaelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo, and Raphael–discovered that their master Splinter was missing. It looked as if he had been taken captive–but where and by whom?

"So what do we do now?" asked Raphael. "Splinter's out there!"

"I *know* Splinter's out there, dude," said Leonardo "But as ninjas, we've got to practice *invisibility* We can't search the whole city for him!"

L
D

Splinter *had* been kidnapped–by the evil ninja Shredder, who was now holding the rat prisoner in a secluded warehouse The Shredder was furious at the Turtles They had stopped his gang from committing a crime He wanted to put an end to their meddling–*now!*

"Who are these turtle *freaks?*" demanded Shredder "And who are you?"

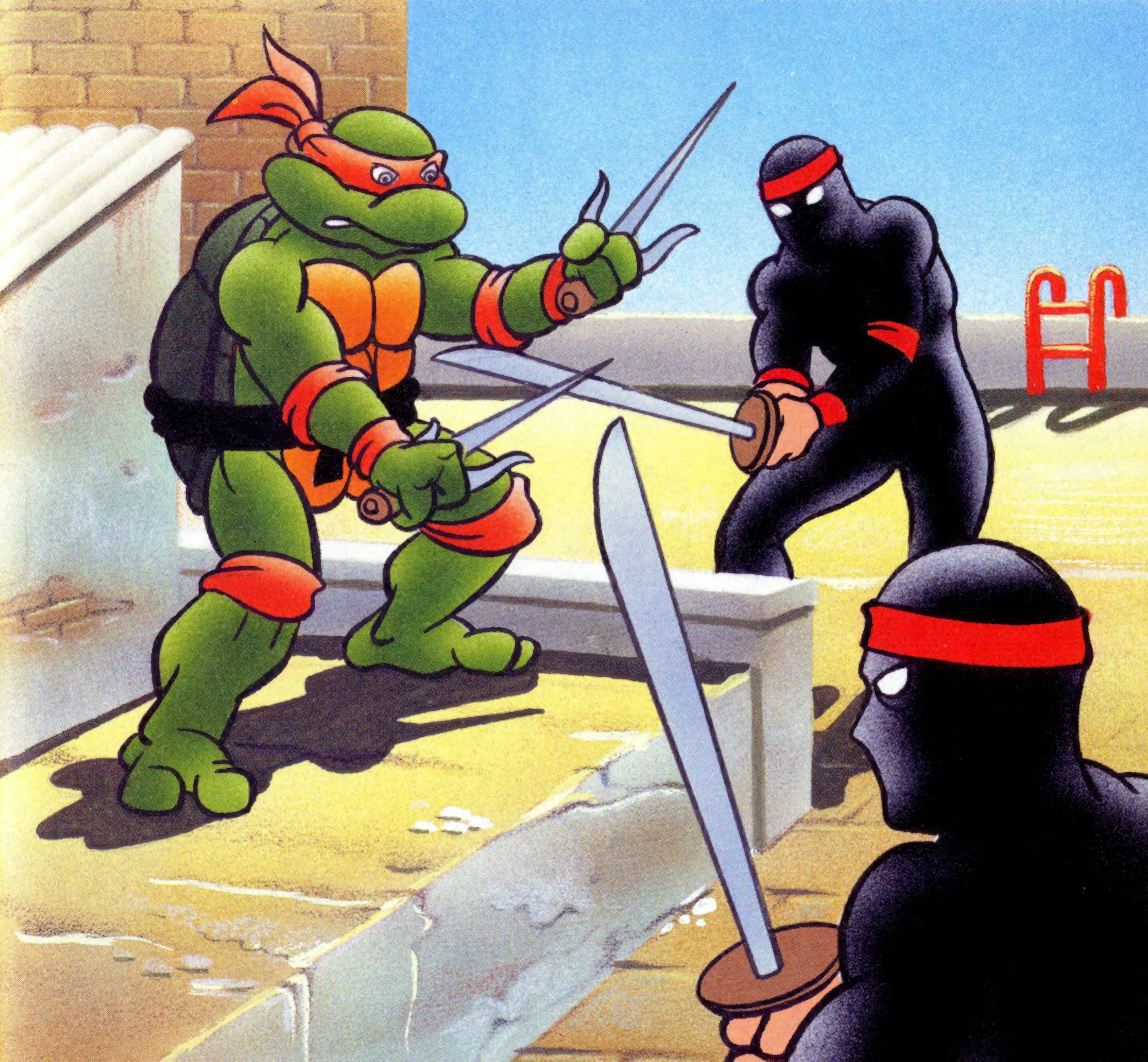
Splinter remained silent.

"*You will answer!*" said Shredder

Meanwhile, the Turtles went to seek advice from their friend April O'Neil, a TV news reporter Raphael didn't feel like talking. Instead, he sat on the roof of April's building and watched the city below.

He didn't know that *he* was being watched by some of Shredder's gang.

Raphael was caught off guard. The gang surrounded the Turtle and dragged him to the edge of the roof.



Crash!

Raphael came flying through April's living room skylight window He lay very still.

Crash! Crash! Crash!

Shredder's gang followed, smashing the rest of the windows The thugs were armed with heavy battle-axes As they swung them at the Turtles, the weapons tore up huge chunks of floor The room began to creak.

Snap! The floor collapsed and the Turtles, April, and Shredder's gang fell into the store below April's apartment. When the dust cleared, the Turtles saw *more* thugs entering the store from the street.

"There are too many of them!" shouted Leonardo. "We've gotta get out of here!"

"Over here, guys!" April cried She had pulled some boxes away from the wall to reveal a small door "This freight elevator leads to a back alley"

Michaelangelo held back the thugs with his *nunchakus* while Leonardo, Donatello, and April dragged Raphael into the elevator Safely inside, April fished some car keys out of her pocket. "I have a place we can go," she said softly

R

April took the Turtles to her country farmhouse. With care, Raphael slowly recovered, but the Turtles were still filled with despair. They each spent their days alone, puttering around the farm and countryside. They did anything to keep from thinking about what was bothering them all...

R

And then one morning Michaelangelo could stand his pain no longer. He set out to find Leonardo, who was meditating in the woods

"I can't stand this, Leo," said Michaelangelo to his brother. "I'm sick with guilt. We did *everything* that Splinter taught us *not* to do. We've failed him."

"I know," said Leonardo "And now . with him gone. " Leonardo looked down at the ground "*He* never taught us what to do without him!"

Time passed slowly Each day Leonardo would sit in the woods and meditate on what he was most worried about–Splinter.

And then one day, when he was about to return to the farmhouse, he heard his name being whispered

"Leonardo ." It was Splinter's voice.

Leonardo ran wildly through the woods and burst into the house, where the other Turtles and April were gathered.

L

"He's *alive!* Splinter's alive!" Leonardo shouted

The Turtles and April looked at each other with concern Donatello approached his brother and put his hand on his shoulder "We know, Leo," he said. "Of course he is We *all* think he's alive ."

Leonardo threw Donatello's hand from his shoulder. "I don't *think*," he said, and he took a deep breath. "I *know*."

L
R
D
1

That night the Turtles gathered around a bonfire in the woods

"Now do what I told you," Leonardo explained "Everybody close their eyes and concentrate Concentrate hard ."

The Turtles meditated together. The night was quiet and still, and from out of the flames there began to appear the image of Splinter

"I am proud of you, my sons ." he said.

The Turtles gasped but continued to concentrate

"Tonight you have learned the final and greatest truth of the ninja–that ultimate mastery comes *not* of the body but of the *mind.* Together, there is nothing your four minds cannot accomplish. Help one another Remember the force that binds us.. that brought me here tonight. That which I return with my final words I love you .my sons "

The image disappeared The Turtles sat in silence, filled with a new hope

Early the next morning the Turtles began to practice their fighting technique.

"Stop trying to overpower each other," said Leonardo. "Remember what Splinter said."

Michaelangelo and Raphael lowered their weapons. "But this is how we always fight," said Michaelangelo.

Leonardo stood between the two "All right, look," he said as he turned his mask around till his eyes were covered. He drew his *katana* and stood ready to fight. "Okay, now attack me All three of you "

L

"Come on, Leo," said Raphael. "You'll get hurt!"

Leonardo lashed out with the flat side of his sword and whacked Raphael on the arm. "Come on!" he said

"Knock it off, Leo. That hurt," said Raphael.

Leonardo whacked him again. "Come on!" he shouted

Raphael was angry. "I'm warning you, Leo. ."

Leonardo whacked him again. Harder. That did it. Raphael drew his *sai* and jumped at his brother.

But Leonardo struck first, easily knocking the *sai* from Raphael's hand. A surprised Raphael drew his other *sai* and motioned for his brothers to join him. "Let's teach him a lesson," joked Raphael.

The three brothers attacked Leonardo. One, two, three–he disarmed them all.

"Radical!" shouted Michaelangelo.

"Wicked bad!" cried Donatello.

The three Turtles turned to Raphael, who was still silent.

Finally, a smile came over Raphael's face. "Totally awesome, dude...like, you rule the world!" he said as he grabbed Leonardo. "Do you realize what this means?"

"I do," said Leonardo as he turned around his mask. "It means we've learned our final lesson. It's time to start doing what we *believe* we can do–like finding Splinter!"

Join those radical reptiles—the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles® —in these action-packed mini-storybooks based on *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles—The Movie.*

The First Battle
The Final Lesson

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